Shelter for pavement dwellers in major Cities

1192. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a scheme to provide shelter for pavement dwellers in major cities of the country; if so, the details thereoof and whether local self-governing bodies would be involved in this scheme;

(b) whether Government have since formulated a comprehensive settlement policy, instead of National Housing policy, to take care of the under-privileged, namely slum dwellers, rural labourers and other vulnerable sections of the society; and

(c) whether the issue was deliberated at the recently held Session of UN Commission on Human Settlements in Delhi and what were the highlights and decisions taken in this conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) A scheme for alleviating shelter problems of the pavement dwellers in the metropolitan cities is being worked out. The Scheme will be implemented with the assistance and active cooperation of the State Governments and development agencies.

(b) Housing has been given priority in the 7th Five Year Plan and has been included in the 20 Point Programme. Point No. 14 and 15 of the 20 Point Programme relate to:

(i) provision of house sites to rural landless workers;

(ii) Construction assistance on allotted house sites;

(iii) Indira Awas Yojana

(iv) E.W.S. Housing;

(v) L.I.G. Housing;

(vi) Environmental Improvement of Slums. The draft National Housing Policy envisages shelter strategies encom passing housing and human settlement problems with due focus on under privileged and vulnerable sections of the society.

(c) "Global Strategy for Shelter to the year 2000" was the theme of the recently concluded Eleventh Session of United Nations Commission on Human Settlements in New Delhi. In its resolution, recommended for adoption by the U.N. General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the Commission decided that the main objective of global Shelter strategy will be to facilitate adequate shelter for all by the year 2000 and the main focus will be to improve the situation of the disadvantaged and poor. The Commission also urged the National Governments to develop their own appropriate national and sub-national strategies for shelter in the light of guidelines, provided by the Executive Director in his report to the Commission.

Production of serials and telefilms by Doordarshan

1193. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan proposes to produce its own serials and telefilms to be telecast exclusively on Television; if so, what are the modalities of the scheme and by when it is proposed to be implemented;

(b) what promopted Government to take such a decision; and

(c) whether there is any flaw in the present system of registration and approval of serials and telefilms produced by outsiders and if so, the steps taken to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) For the last few years, Doordarshan has been producing its own serials and telefilms which have been telecast on Doordarshan.

(c) In order to improve the general standard of serials telecast on Doordarshan and to have them handled by experienced and media knowing people, the Government, last year, formulated a new scheme of registration of directors|producers with Doordarshan for production of TV serials|series. Applications were invited in this regard upto 30-10-1987 and the process of scrutinising the applications and preparing a panel of producers|directors by a Selection Board is on. In future, proposals for production of serials|series for sponsorship will be invited from those who are registered with Doordarshan. The new scheme, however, is only another step of the Government in the constant endeavour of improving the quality of Doordarshan programmes.

HUDCO loan for expansion of Ellis bridge in Ahmedabad

1194. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will tht Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has requested HUDCO for a loan of Rs. 5 crores for expansion of 100 years old Ellis bridge in the city;

(b) what are the main features of the representation given by the Municipal Commissioner, the conditions of loan and by when a final decision would be taken; and

(c) whether such term loans have been given earlier also by the HUDCO; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ellis Bridge at present is not open to heavy vehicular traffic. As such the entire bus traffic is diverted through Nehru Bridge causing severe congestion and traffic hazards. The expansion of the Ellis Bridge will ease the traffic situation between two parts of Ahmedabad city. The proposal is under consideration of HUDCO as per guidelines applicable to such schemes.

(c) The Pune City Municipal Corporation has been sanctioned earlier a cycle network project including two bridges across Mutha River, one connecting link bridge and two under pass ways, under the terms and conditions applicable to utility and infrastructure schemes with a loan component of Rs. 2.55 crores at 10 per cent rate of interest repayable in 12 years.

Amendment to the provident fund laws and trade union laws

1195. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Provident Fund and Laws and the Trade Union laws for the betterment of industrial labour and to improve industrial relations; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. A Bill to amend the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 25th April, 1988. There is also a proposal for amending the Trade Union Act, 1926.

(b) The E. P. F. (Amendment) Bill provide *inter-alia* for delegation of enhanced powers to Central Board of Trustees, removing of loopholes in the existing legal and penal provisions, decentralisation of work relating to maintenance of provident fund accounts and setting up an independent machinery for recovery of EPF dues. The Trade Union Amendment Bill may provide *inter-alia* for registration of a Trade Union on the basis of specified percentage of membership, increase in payment of subscription by members of Trade Unions and debarring Ministers from becoming Office bearers of Trade Unions.